

AFFIDAVIT

Today, Monday 15th April 1946, there appeared before myself Evert van Essen, 1st Class Inspector of Police in the Netherlands East Indies and member of the War Crimes Investigation Team at Singapore, Holding a sitting: in the Nee Soon Camp at Singapore, a person who on enquiry declared himself to be:

Name: SAMRAWI bin Wiriastja. Age: about 35 year.

Civilian Occupation: Jockey.

Address: The Nee Soon Camp Singapore.

Future Address: Subdistrict Kalibening.  
District Karangobar Bandjanegara.

5. Can you give any information about acts of violence committed against yourself or others, which you have witnessed?

My home is in Bandjanegara, district Karangobar, subdistrict Kalibening, where I was a jockey. In April 1943 I was called to appear at the Subdistrict Office, from where I was taken to the Kawedaneer and from there to the Regent's Office at Badjanegara. At the Regent's Office I was detained with about 100 other Javanese for a little while, and taken to Tandjong Priok by the Japanese by train, where we remained for about three days, and then left for Singapore on a Japanese ship with about 1000 Javanese coolies. At Singapore we were separated. About 500 of us were taken to Poeloe Sekidjang. At Poeloe Sekidjang we were set to work as coolies to unload ships. We had namely to unload rice, sugar, and tobacco. We worked day and night. Many coolies fell ill, suffering from dysentery, beriberi, malaria, etc. By way of medicine all we got was only one sort of pill; for dysentery the Japanese gave us Merit. Many coolies, about 200 to 300 died here; there were 10 to 15 deaths per day. Corpses were burnt by the Japanese, until a Hadji who had died was burnt, but whose corpse would not burn, after which he was just buried. Thereafter no more burning of corpses took place. A coolie whose name I do not recollect because we were only named by number, lay for sometime in a barrack for the sick, where he suffered from hunger; he therefore set out to steal sweet potatoes and was caught in the act by the Japanese. The Japanese named Kimoto San and Tedjibana, both soldiers wearing embroidered insignia consisting of three yellow stars, then bound this victim with his hands on his back, his feet were also bound, and lying on the ground with legs raised owing to his rope being tied to a tree, his body was wrapped in a mat and he was thereafter sprinkled with a bottle of petroleum and set alight. His back and seat and other parts of his body were burnt. The rope burnt through and after the fire was put out, the victim was taken to hospital, where he died three days later from the resulting injuries.

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Later

Later, in the month of July 1944, I was taken along with other coolies to Kompong Baroe, Tanjong Pagar, Singapore, where, too, we had to work at unloading and repairing ships.

There several times I was beaten with a big thick piece of rope on my right eye, so that I contracted wounds and my eye was injured. To this very day I cannot see well with this eye, and I still bear a scar (I, the interrogator, confirm that there is a scar on the right eyelid and adjoining the eye). This was done by the Japanese soldier, Abisan, wearing the distinctive insignia of three embroidered yellow stars.

The reason was that a big bar of iron could not be lifted by three of my coolies, and I, as foreman, was held accountable.

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VERIFICATION BY THE WITNESS

I, the undersigned SANRAWI bin Wiristja, mentioned-above, hereby declare that I was led in and heard on oath by the interrogator, who informed me that the oath taken by me was still binding upon me, and having heard my above sworn statement read to me in my native language and shown to me, I declare that it is a true and accurate statement.

Singapore, 15th April 1946

The witness above-named:

Sd/ with the right thumb impression  
of Sanrawi

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The above statements have been signed in my presence and this official record has been truly drawn up and subsequently signed by myself, the interrogator.

On 15th April 1946 at Singapore

The above-named interrogator:

Sd/ E. van Essen

Certified a true copy:  
Sd/ illegible

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned, CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain R.M.I.A., Head of the War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS) being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed Dutch documents, entitled :

Affidavit of SANRAWI bin Wiriastja, jockey, dated 15 April 1946.

concerning illtreatment of "romusha" (forced coolies) by the Japanese authorities in the coolie-camps in Malaya and neighborhood,

have been taken from the official records of the NEFIS.

SIGNATURE :

/S/ Ch. Jongeneel

BATAVIA, 23 July 1946.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, K.A. de WEERD, LL.D., first Lieutenant R.M.I.A., Senior Official attached to the Office of the Attorney General, R.E.I.

/S/ K. A. de Weerd